

## AIR RAID SIGNALS TO SOUND

The Sigalert radio control system will be used Friday morning, April 27, when Los Angeles county warning signals will sound at 10 a.m. in the monthly equipment test, Howard Earl, County Civil Defense director announced today.

This will be the first time that all of the county's major sirens will be activated simultaneously by sub-sonic radio impulses originating from a central control panel in the Hall of Justice.

"While the State Office of Civil Defense has discontinued regular state-wide tests, it was voted at a recent meeting of the Los Angeles County and Cities Civil Defense Planning Board, that the tests would be made in this county," Earl said. "No

public action is required during the test, but we do hope that citizens will listen to the sirens and learn to recognize the signals."

The only difference between this test and those held previously, is that this one will be at 10 a.m., instead of 11 a.m., as formerly scheduled. The test pattern remains the same, with a one-minute steady blast sounding first, to signify the "yellow" or "attack is probable" alert. This is followed by one minute of silence, after which one minute of warbling "red" or "take cover" warning will be heard.

"If this were a real attack warning," Earl pointed out, "the sirens would sound a 'yellow' alert of a steady blast for five minutes instead

of one minute, and the "red" or "take cover" warbling warning would be of three minutes duration instead of one minute. We urge every one to learn these warnings and to learn what to do if a real attack should come.

If you are in doubt as to whether the alert is a test or the real thing, turn on your radio and if it is an actual attack, Civil Defense information will be broadcast. If normal programs are in progress, it is not an attack.

Mechanical failure of sirens could be disastrous, in event of an enemy attack, the director said in explaining the reason for the tests. Wind and rain storms, temperature changes and other elements of nature, along with the possibility of

sabotage, were considered in the decision to continue the tests. Skilled mechanics are constantly on the alert for weaknesses in the siren system and these tests help them find the "bugs."

"Civil Defense has had more trouble with sirens developing short circuits and sounding unexpectedly than with sirens not responding during a test," Earl concluded.

## School District Has Four Major Headaches

Youth means growth and growth means growing pains. That is particularly true of the Torrance Unified School District.

In addition to having many major accomplishments to its credit, it also has a number of man-sized headaches.

The most serious of these involve 1) construction of more schools and getting students off double session; 2) breaking in new teachers and new employees; 3) adapting the budget to increased costs for services and supplies; and recruiting top quality teachers.

Gravest of these problems is keeping up with the school construction needs of the district and eliminating double sessions.

Despite the present 16 elementary schools, and two high schools plus seven more schools under construction, which will

help take 5000 children off double sessions, there will be 4000 more children by that time who will be on double session. All avenues have been exhausted to finance these needs through local bond issues and federal funds and it now appears as if the Torrance Board of Education will try to obtain State loans.

This, school officials stated, will permit the district to start school construction sooner and purchase more sites before the land costs get higher.

Such a State loan program will not add much to the present tax rate, but it will result in extending the present bond and interest tax rate for a number of years, according to information received from State officials.

**Training Teachers**  
Breaking in new teachers is another serious problem. About 200 new teachers are added to the district every year. Half of these are replacements for teachers who have dropped out and the other half represent an increase in the teaching staff itself.

This calls for a proper assignment of experienced and inexperienced teachers to the various schools; an in-service training program and pre-

school orientation program.

The district's growth also requires the training of many new bus drivers, cafeteria workers, gardeners, custodians, secretaries, and maintenance personnel.

**Increased Costs**  
Balancing the budget to allow for future operational cost increases presents another problem. Operational costs will increase as the tenure of local school employees increases.

Unless other state sources of income are developed, Torrance may be faced with an over-ride tax to maintain its school program, according to school officials.

Torrance and Beverly Hills are the only two remaining large districts in Los Angeles county that do not have an over-ride tax for operating expenses anywhere from 25 cents to \$2 beyond the statutory \$1.65.

Because of the great demand for, and relative shortage of teachers, the recruiting of top quality teachers is a major problem.

Teachers and prospective teachers have been interviewed in 20 colleges and universities in California and in 20 or more major training institutions outside the state.

The staff interviews about eight individuals for every teacher the board employs.

Thus the employment of 200 teachers is preceded by the interviewing of some 1500 candidates.



**DROP HAMMER MEN**

Massive drop hammers form sheet metal parts for the F4D at the Torrance location of Douglas Aircraft Co. Experienced operators such as Leadman Marty Lawler, 20900 La Salle ave., (left), and Robert Coward, 21633 Palos Verdes Blvd., (second from left), are valuable members of the Navy-Douglas team. —Douglas Photo.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fernandez, of 4632 Highgrove Ave., announce the birth of a daughter, Cecilia Ann, weighing 8 pounds and 15 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mora, of 1514 W. Lomita Blvd., announce the birth of a daughter, Cecilia Annette, weighing 7 pounds and 7 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew G. McCoy, Jr., of 17321 Glenburn Ave., announce the birth of daughter, Juliana, weighing 7 pounds and 11 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Monty R. Cloward, of 1787 1/2 Greenwood Ave., announce the birth of a son, Lonnie Eugene, weighing 7 pounds and 15 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Peterson, of 22421 Marjorie Ave., announce the birth of a son, Michael John, weighing 9 pounds and 6 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Vincent, of 3127 W. 188th, announce the birth of a son, Mark Stratton, weighing 8 pounds and 10 ounces.

OPEN FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. SATURDAY 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY 12:00 NOON to 6:00 P.M.

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